

The Safety of Clarence residents is my top priority.

5/15/14

I never thought that I would get to the age where the installation of a stop light would make my day, but I was wrong. As we speak, Erie County is installing the new stoplight at the intersection of County and Strickler Road, and it will be fully functional within the next two weeks. If you drive by the intersection, you will immediately notice several changes:

1. The light is now up. Although it flashes red (north/south) and yellow (east/west) it can be changed to a standard red/yellow/green stop light at anytime in the future.
2. Erie County repaved Strickler as you enter the intersection, so the roadbed is higher, smoother and it is easier to pull onto County from Strickler than it has been in the past.
3. The County also shaved off the side of the hill on the southeast corner of the intersection. It was thought that this change would improve visibility as you sit on Strickler looking north toward Salt.

The County will continue to monitor this intersection, modifying it as the accident rate dictates. We look for a decrease in the number of accidents due to the changes, and truly feel that all residents of Erie County will benefit from the improvements.

The Highway Department will also start to stripe key intersections in the Town of Clarence as a part of our effort to improve the safety of the bike path. All intersections of the bike path with both local and county roads will be restriped this spring or summer. If you use the bike path and you have to try to navigate the intersection of the Bike path and Salt Road, you know how tough it can be to get across a road where the drivers can travel 65++ MPH and your view of the roadway is blocked. In the case of Salt Road, the view is extremely limited due to the big barn that sits at the corner of Salt and the Bike path. While this intersection is currently tricky for adults that know what is coming, it can be deadly for kids that do not. The new striping, which will consist of a phosphorescent green bike surrounded by white warning bars to let driver know, well in advance, that people will be crossing the street.

In addition, the town has a new set of warning signs that it will be using in case of flooding. Larger, more descriptive and easier to spot than the signs that we have used in the past, these signs will be placed at all key intersections during the next high water crisis.

The Town Board will continue to make changes in and around the town to insure the safety of our residents, and I will continue to communicate these changes to you via my column in the Bee and the Town of Clarence web site.

Should you have any comments or questions, please feel free to email dhartzell@clarence.ny.us, call 741-8930 or stop by for a visit at Town Hall. My door is always open!

